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**REMARKS BY
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA
USAID DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
ANNOUNCEMENT OF FISCAL YEAR 2012 SUPPORT**

**ERD CONFERENCE ROOM
OCTOBER 11, 2012**

Acting ERD Secretary Md. Shafiqul Azam

USAID Bangladesh Mission Director Richard Greene

Colleagues and many friends

Asalaam M'laikum and good morning!

Partnership is a simple word ... it has only three syllables ... it's easy to say; it's easy to talk about, but to make partnership reality takes commitment ... deep, genuine commitment.

Today, I am here at ERD to announce America's commitment ... deep, genuine commitment to partner with the people of Bangladesh, with the government of Bangladesh, with the civil society of Bangladesh to help build the New Bangladesh, the Sonar Bangladesh, the Middle-Income Bangladesh, where citizens have good livelihoods and the means to live in good, safe housing and to provide their families ample, nutritious food, good healthcare and quality education for their children.

That is the Bangladesh of our shared dreams; that is the Bangladesh that America is committed to help make reality.

Today, I am here at ERD to announce that America will provide \$200 million to support its deepening partnership with Bangladesh. America's partnership in Bangladesh is our largest development program anywhere in Asia, outside of Afghanistan and Pakistan ...and our partnership in Bangladesh is growing...our support this year is a nearly ten percent increase over last year.

Sometimes partnership can be hard to understand; sometimes partnership seems like some abstract concept, something studied in a classroom, something remote from reality, something that is announced on occasions like today and then forgotten.

Actually, partnership is a simple thing. Partnership is America and Bangladesh working together to help people, to help Bangladeshis help themselves in building better lives for themselves and for their families. This growing partnership between America and Bangladesh is helping millions of Bangladeshis improve their quality of life as they fight their way out of poverty.

The results of this partnership are everywhere evident. I travel this country as much as I can so I can see for myself the real, tangible impact of this partnership in helping the great people of this wonderful country as they build better lives for themselves and their children. I am deeply proud of the impact that this partnership has already had. With the important expansion of our programs that I just announced, the partnership will help even more Bangladeshis in the future.

Let me cite just a few examples of how our partnership is contributing to real, tangible, concrete impact on the lives of Bangladeshis:

- Bangladeshis now lose fewer and fewer children to illness and disease. The death rate of children continues to steadily drop ... nothing has greater impact on a family than preserving the health of our children.
- Fewer and fewer Bangladeshi mothers die in childbirth. Nothing is more devastating to a family than the death of the mother.
- Bangladeshis can now have the family size they want. Bangladeshis can choose for themselves how many children they wish to have.
- More than 25 million Bangladeshis rely on primary health care facilities that this partnership makes possible. I think each of us has seen Smiling Sun clinics in so many places.
- The partnership supports the ongoing agricultural revolution that promises to make Bangladesh food self-sufficient within a decade. The partnership has already helped 1.4 million farmers introduce improved agricultural practices on over 400,000 hectares, and the results have been dazzling as harvests have grown and the cost of production has dropped ... every farmer's dream come true.

- But producing food is not enough; people need the means to procure it, and thanks to this partnership, more and more Bangladeshis have improved their livelihoods so they can procure food ... but having greater access to food is not enough ... mothers need to know how to prepare balanced, nutritious diets for their children ... and this is the newest frontier of our partnership.
- Everyone knows that Bangladesh is the frequent target of cyclones and floods. Thanks to this partnership, Bangladesh is better prepared than ever for these natural disasters. Already America has helped to build/rebuild 550 cyclone shelters and over 116 more are in the pipeline ... each one saves over 2000 lives in a calamity ... what could be more real than this?
- Few countries are more impacted by climate change than Bangladesh. The America-Bangladesh partnership helps farmers prepare for the impact of global climate change by elevating their homesteads, creating fish and shrimp ponds, and using saline resistant seed varieties. The partnership is also revitalizing Bangladesh's national parks so they are preserved and strengthened as natural barriers to the impact of climate change.
- The partnership also supports Bangladesh's emerging democratic institutions by engaging with parliament, improving the public's awareness of the justice sector, promoting local governance, supporting the citizens' right to information, and protecting Bangladeshi men, women and children from predators who seek to traffic them into labor or sexual exploitation.

I could go on, detailing how the America-Bangladesh partnership contributes to Bangladesh's development, but I think I have made my point. America's commitment to partner with Bangladesh is about more than providing \$200 million dollars; it is about helping millions of ordinary Bangladeshis, real Bangladeshis, Bangladeshis with names, Bangladeshis with faces, Bangladeshis with families, Bangladeshis with hopes and dreams, Bangladeshis who are working hard and successfully to better provide for their families. There is nothing abstract about this; if you travel about this nation, you can meet each one of these millions of Bangladeshis who benefit from this strong partnership between America and Bangladesh.

I am so deeply proud of America's role in partnering with the people of Bangladesh; I am so deeply proud that our engagements here directly support the priorities and strategies of the

government for how best to develop this nation; I am so deeply proud that our partnership aligns with the work of Bangladesh's many others friends and supporters. I am so deeply proud that our development partnership through USAID complements our partnership in other sectors including the Bangladesh police, Coast Guard, and military and our role as Bangladesh's largest market, large investor and third largest source of remittances.

This is indeed a great day ... a day to celebrate ... a day to recommit ourselves more than ever to strengthen, deepen, broaden the partnership between America and Bangladesh, so we, working together, can help more and more Bangladeshis build for themselves and their families the Sonar Bangladesh.

Thank you.

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**As prepared for delivery*